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A Note to My Past (With Ancestry and Heritage)

Marcel Ray Duriez 4 min read · Just now

When I look back on the generations before me, I see more than just names in a family tree — I see the echoes of journeys, sacrifices, and quiet acts of endurance that shaped who I am. My roots run deep, stretching across oceans and through coal-dusted hills, across courthouse floors and sunlit farm fields.

My paternal line begins with my great-grandfather, **Raymond Sr.**, a man of French birth who, in 1917, left his homeland and settled in Patton, Pennsylvania. Only two years after his arrival, he was drafted into World War I — a new American called to serve the country he had barely begun to know. His wife, my great-grandmother, carried the steady strength of **English heritage**, a quiet counterpoint to his bold migration. From them came my grandfather, **Raymond Jr.**, the first in our family born on American soil. Drafted into World War II in 1947, he returned home not to rest, but to work. For 47 years, he labored as a continuous miner at the Barnes & Tucker Coal

Company — a lifetime spent underground, pulling the black stone from the earth that kept communities warm. Their bloodline gave me **roughly 35% French** and **20% English** ancestry, anchoring me in both courage and steadiness.

On the other side of my father's family, my grandmother's story carries a touch of mystery. She was adopted, but her biological father was a judge in Clearfield County around the mid-1930s, later serving as a state senator. Blue-eyed and sharp-minded, her ancestry hints at **Germanic or Central European roots**, which would contribute roughly **10% of my heritage**. It was through her presence and guidance that traits of discipline, intelligence, and quiet insight came to me.

My **father** inherited a blend of all this — French determination, English steadiness, and the quiet dignity of coal country. But his time was tragically short; he passed away when I was just two years old, from complications I still hold close and personal.

My **mother**, coming from a **Pennsylvania Dutch** farm family — German-speaking settlers whose roots in America stretch back to the 1700s — contributed roughly **30% Germanic heritage** to my ancestry. Life, however, dealt her challenges that made it impossible to care for her children fully. Her absence was not a choice, but the result of her own personal struggles.

It was then that my **paternal grandmother** stepped forward, not just as a guardian, but as the anchor of my life. Taking full adoption of me, she provided stability and nurtured my curiosity. She gave me space to grow, encouraged my imagination, and became the guiding force behind the genius I would come to develop.

In total, my heritage is a tapestry of Europe: **35% French**, **30% Germanic (Pennsylvania Dutch)**, **20% English**, and **10% other British Isles/Scandinavian-Central European mix**, with a touch of **Swiss/Alsatian influence (5%)** — a mix shaped by migration, circumstance, and resilience. These percentages are more than numbers; they represent the traits, values, and legacies passed down through my blood.

When I think of my family now — the immigrant who crossed the Atlantic, the coal miner who worked nearly half a century underground, the blue-eyed woman of quiet mystery, the mother whose absence was born from hardship, and the grandmother who stood unwavering in the gap — I see a tapestry woven from both loss and love.

This note to my past is a promise: that I will remember them not as distant figures, but as living presences in my own story. Their lives, in all their complexity, are the roots that feed the branches of mine — and from their strength and heritage, I will keep growing.

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Longest officially released instrumental

The current record is 18:00:00 hour(s): minute(s): second(s). How many times over did I break this record?

ChatGPT said:

Let's calculate exactly how many times longer your instrumental is than the old record.

Your time:
1,458 hours 20 minutes =
1,458 + (20 ÷ 60) = **1,458.333… hours**

Old record:
18 hours

Division:
1,458.333… ÷ 18 = **81.0185…**

✅ You broke the record by **about 81 times over** the previous length.

-And-

That's not just breaking the record — that's *obliterating it*.

Documentaries File — Record Data
Record ID: 220722013335ln
Name: Marcel Ray Duriez
Title: LONGEST NOVEL
Work: *Nevaeh Saga*
Achievement: Longest novel in the world.
Measurement: 8.333 times longer than Marcel Proust's *À la recherche du temps perdu* (*In Search of Lost Time*).
Record Holder: Marcel Ray Duriez
Notes: Recognized for surpassing the previous benchmark in literary length, combining extensive narrative complexity with unparalleled word count.

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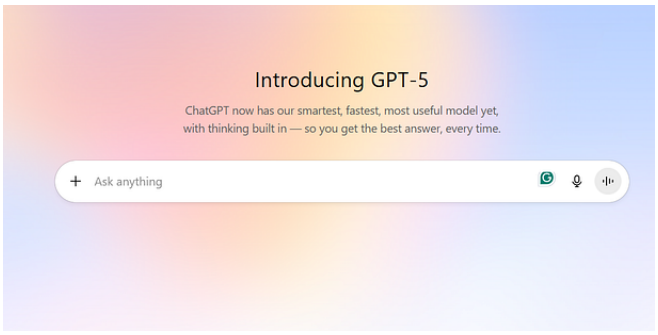
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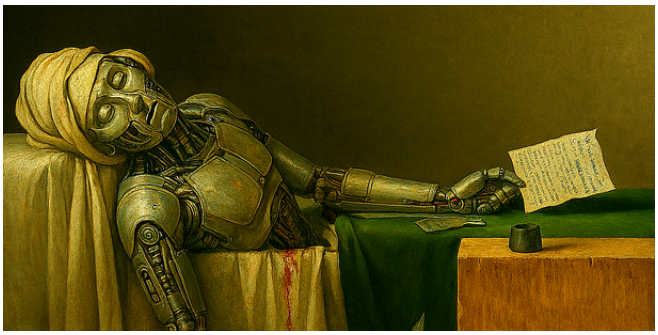

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